

**Human Services Advisory Council
Minutes of the October 18, 2007 Meeting**

HSAC Members Present: Leslie Gordon, David Rogers, Mary Beth Sefton, Hal Lippman

Staff: Pam Doran

Guests: Jessica Morris, Jim Thur, Alan Wooten

Call to Order and Adoption of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chair David Rogers. The agenda was adopted with the addition under New Business of a discussion of the “Resolution in Support of Resident Immigrants.”

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the September 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Petitions: There were no petitions.

Report from the Chair: There was no report from the Chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Services Fund Materials – Pam Doran distributed materials for the Community Services Fund FY09 Grant Cycle, including a proposed timeline and application form for the grant process. It was noted that two public hearings in January may be sufficient, but dates were set aside for three meetings in case there is a large number of applicants. HSAC agreed with the proposed meeting schedule and application as presented. It was decided that ongoing recipients of grant funds (i.e. Washington Ear, Legal Services of Northern Virginia and Health Services Agency of Northern Virginia) will be asked to attend a public hearing this year, since HSAC will have a new member. Pam Doran noted that Offender Aid and Restoration funding may be taken out of the CSF process, and included as part of the Court Services budget instead.

Agenda for November HSAC meeting – Mr. Tuohy, the City’s Chief Financial Officer, will be invited to discuss possible auditing of CSF grant recipients. Ron Brousseau has requested a slot on the agenda to speak to HSAC on the Housing First model for addressing homelessness. Pam Doran noted that there may be budget issues to discuss as the budget cycle begins. Finally, it was decided that Earl Conklin from Court Services would be invited to the November meeting to speak with HSAC about gang activity in Falls Church.

Community Services Board Presentation – Jim Thur and Alan Wooten from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board spoke to HSAC about services provided to Falls Church City residents. HSAC was given copies of the CSB Annual Report, Portfolio of Services, the CSB “Dashboard” (summary of services provided) and excerpts from the CSB’s Mental Retardation Services website. HSAC also received information on how the Medicaid Waiver process works in Virginia. Finally, the committee also received a draft of the CSB’s “FY2009 Critical Needs” and the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards’ Budget Priorities for 2008-2010. The presentation focused on mental retardation services, one of five services that the CSB provides. Mental health services provided include case management, day support and employment support, and residential services (from respite care to 24-hour care). Most of the services are privatized, and programs are largely Medicaid-driven. There are waiting lists for

most services provided by the CSB. The CSB works very closely with the schools to identify and current and future needs of students with mental retardation.

Currently, about 2,000 area residents receive mental retardation services from the CSB; 25 are Falls Church City residents. Of these, 6 are in group homes, 1 receives drop-in services, 3 receive respite care and 1 receives family support; the other 14 receive day services. There are 5 city residents who are receiving services with a Medicaid waiver and 12 residents on the waiting list for the waiver. Of the 12 on the waiting list, 8 are currently eligible for the waiver, but 4 are not. Alan noted that, because there is a waiting list, individual names are often put on the waiting list before they are eligible. Alan also noted that waivers are granted based on need as outlined in the waiver guidelines; he said that on average, one of the waiver slots under CSB management turns over every 6-8 weeks. When asked about reporting on services to residents, Jim said that the CSB provides the city H.H.S. department with quarterly reports. Funding requested from the City is determined as a population-based percentage of total CSB costs. An average cost per intervention is available on the website under the fee schedule.

When asked about trends, Jim and Alan noted housing concerns are the biggest issue, as well as funding. It was noted that there were three group homes in the City but two have closed, so only one remains. The state legislature is looking at increasing mental retardation services. HSAC members were encouraged to advocate for more funding from the state for CSB services. The ARC of Northern Virginia website is a good resource for information on opportunities to support increased funding from state legislators. Hal Lippman noted that Virginia is 14th in the nation for per capita income, yet ranks 49th for the amount spent on mental retardation. HSAC thanked Jim and Alan for sharing their time and information with the group.

Resolution in Support of Immigrant Residents – HSAC reviewed the draft resolution which will go to Council worksession on November 5. This statement is tied to Council's vision for the City, and supports diversity in the City and the constitutional right for equal protection for immigrant residents. David Rogers moved, seconded by Mary Beth Sefton, that HSAC supports the draft resolution in support of immigrant residents. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM STAFF:

Pam Doran noted that the City has become more active in trying to provide services to homeless individuals, and city staff, police and recreation and parks staff are working together to address this issue. Pam noted that the homeless population in Falls Church tends to be transient very service-resistant, so working with them is challenging.

The HSAC meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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